



Attorney's Docket No.: 06301-054001 / C1-901PCT-US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Shigeaki Kato et al.

Art Unit : 1646

Serial No. : 09/489,198

Examiner : J. Murphy

Filed : January 20, 2000

Title : GENE SCREENING METHOD USING NUCLEAR RECEPTOR

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO
RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Prior to substantive examination, please amend the application as follows.

In the claims

Amend claims 8 to 11 as follows.

~~8.~~ (Amended) A method for screening a gene encoding a polypeptide that converts a ligand precursor into a ligand, the method comprising

- (A) introducing a test gene into a cell comprising (i) a vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a nuclear receptor and (ii) a vector comprising a binding sequence to which the nuclear receptor binds and, located downstream of the binding sequence, a nucleic acid sequence encoding a reporter molecule,
(B) contacting a ligand precursor with the cell into which the test gene is introduced;
(C) evaluating the activity of the reporter molecule, and
(D) isolating the test gene from the cell if the cell shows reporter activity.

~~9.~~ (Amended) A method for determining whether or not a test gene encodes a polypeptide that converts a ligand precursor into a ligand, the method comprising

- (A) introducing a test gene into a cell comprising (i) a vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a nuclear receptor and (ii) a vector comprising a binding sequence to which the nuclear receptor binds and, located downstream of the binding sequence, a nucleic acid sequence encoding a reporter molecule,
(B) contacting a ligand precursor with the cell into which the test gene is introduced, and
(C) evaluating the activity of the reporter molecule.

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I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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